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Celebrity pg 18

Extent of actress' injuries not clear

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Homelessness plan 'priority,' says Stelmach

PROJECT Alberta's government will move ahead with its lofty $3.3 billion homelessness strategy, but it warned housing agencies not to expect all of the cash for needed projects over the next fiscal year.

Premier Ed Stelmach says the 10-year plan to end homelessness in the province is a priority of the government's since the issue is costing millions to "taxpayers."

"You'll find the budget will reflect the priorities that we've established," said Stelmach to reporters yesterday.

"We're going to continue to invest in those priorities." METRO CALGARY

ROBIN KUNISKI/FOR METRO CALGARY

Protesters and supporters met face-to-face yesterday in downtown Calgary as former U.S. president George W. Bush spoke at a $400-a-plate luncheon at the Telus Convention Centre. More coverage, pg 3

George W.: Pro and con

Citizens split over visit: 'Love him, hate him, don't really care'

JENNIFER HILLIKER
for Metro Calgary

Those lucky enough to be part of the elite 1,500 who purchased an invitation-only $400 seat to hear George W. Bush's speech in Calgary yesterday thought the former president spoke honestly and from the heart.

While Bush kicked off his unofficial image rehabilitation tour inside the Telus Convention Centre, about 300 protesters gathered outside with signs and chants. Some tried to intimidate the speech-goers waiting in line by chanting, "You should be ashamed."

"It's just a small percentage of people who protest," said Wes Reinheller, who attended Bush's speech. "On the flip side, I see a lineup here that's half a mile long — and this is where it's at. I'm here in support of what he's done for the past eight years."

Police arrested four protesters at the event for various charges, including violations of a public behaviour bylaw and breaching the peace. In total 79 police officers, RCMP and members of the Secret Service ensured Bush had a safe visit to Calgary, according to Duty Insp. Rob Williams.

Though the protest was rowdy, the impassioned crowd was generally peaceful in nature.

"We are showing Bush he's not welcome in Calgary. When I see this many wealthy Calgarians lined up to see Bush, it's disappointing," said protester Roberts Scobel.

The main topics Bush covered in his speech, were the economy, Canada-U.S. relations, and life after presidency.

"I was really impressed," Peter Fuerbringer said after hearing the speech. "I didn't know exactly what to expect — he is tremendously charismatic. He's able to laugh at himself, and he didn't pull any punches either. He spoke from the heart, and you really got a sense for the person he is — love him, hate him, don't really care — it didn't matter."

VideoOnline

Separate videos show protesters calling for Bush's arrest as a war criminal, and ticket holders giving thumbs-up to his speech, at **metronews.ca/local**

Tschetter decision before judge

COURT After a week of emotional testimony it is now up to a judge to decide cement truck driver Daniel Tschetter's fate.

Tschetter is facing five counts of manslaughter, five counts of criminal negligence causing death and one count of attempting to obstruct justice in relation to rear-ending a car in December 2007, killing all five people inside, including three children.

Provincial court judge Bruce Fraser heard throughout the trial witness testimony that Tschetter smelled of alcohol after the collision and one witness saw him throw something into the back of his truck, which later turned out to be a partially full bottle of vodka.

However, his defence lawyer Balfour Der said in closing arguments his client should only be found guilty of dangerous driving.

"There is no wanton or reckless disregard for the safety of others here," Der told a packed courtroom.

Crown prosecutor Jonathan Hak argued for convictions on all five counts of manslaughter. A charge of refusing or failing to provide a breath sample was dropped by the Crown at the start of trial.

The verdict is expected May 7. METRO CALGARY

Riding the Recession

Now through the end of March, Metro will share advice on how to cut down on expenses and navigate your way through the recession.

Entertainment

- **The effect the economy is having on music venues and touring artists, pg 16**

Tomorrow

- **Some tips for brown-bagging lunches and local meals for a steal.**

ShareYourViews

calgaryletters@metronews.ca

TAX TIP #28

Transfer eligible income tax credits to your spouse

Certain income tax credits can be transferred to your spouse, reducing the overall tax paid by your household.

This tax tip brought to you by Alberta's Chartered Accountants.
To see all 56 useful tax tips please visit:

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CA Chartered Accountants of Alberta

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Alberta provides tax tips on an annual basis as a public service. The tips are intended to be used as general guidance. For specific advice about filing your 2008 tax return, please consult with the Canada Revenue Agency or your personal tax professional.

Free Daily News Group Inc., operating as Metro Calgary. 120, 3030 - 3 Avenue NE, Calgary, Alberta T2A 6T7. Publisher: Steve Shrout

MLAs nix Grade 3 testing
Alberta MLAs passed a motion at the legislature paving the way for an end to the mandatory Grade 3 testing. The motion is a suggestion only and was voted on after an hour-long debate on the issue. METRO CALGARY

Local

Fringe fest goes retro

The Calgary Fringe Festival is rewinding back to the past starting Thursday until Saturday. The top shows from the past Fringe Festival are back for those who missed it the first time or loved it enough to see it again. For more information or for tickets please visit calgaryfringe.ca. METRO CALGARY

Homeowners cry foul on contracts

Clients claim business using 'aggressive' high-pressure sales tactics

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

Homeowners beware.

That's the advice from a Calgary woman after she said a high-pressure salesperson manipulated her into signing a utility contract.

Kathleen Anderson answered the door Saturday night at 7:45 p.m. to an "aggressive" salesman who she says insinuated he was with local gas companies.

"I wasn't interested, but he kept pressuring me to sign this contract, saying I was one of the only ones around without it and the entire city would soon be on this 'fixed rate' plan," Anderson said, adding her disappointment stems from the belief she was misled.

Afterwards, Anderson researched the company, Alberta Energy Savings. Not only did she find the company with a Better Business Bureau 'F' rating, she also found dozens of complaints about the same approach of other people tricked into signing a contract under what's described as false pretenses.

Barry Aldridge claimed he was misled after being pressured to sign a contract last Friday by an agent he thought was from Enmax, who said she would save Aldrige money on his bill.

"I guess I didn't do my due diligence," he said, adding he would be cancelling the contract.

Anderson lodged complaints with the BBB and Alberta's Utilities Consumer Advocate (UCA), which is now investigating the complaint.

UCA spokesperson Cam Traynor said the utilities company was already on their radar.

"We have had a number of complaints about them in the past but our department took action and the complaints seem to have dropped over the last couple years," Traynor said.

Alberta Energy Savings spokesperson Gord Potter told Metro the company has "rigorous customer safeguards in place."

By the numbers

- According to Utilities Consumer Advocate 1,193 complaints were lodged against Alberta Energy Savings in 2007, but it dropped to 533 in 2008. This year, there have been 167 complaints.
- Current Enmax rates — Electricity — 8.0 KwH Gas – 8.95 GJ
- Current Alberta Energy Savings Rates (confirmed) Electricity — 11.99 KwH Gas — 9.99 GJ

News in brief

CHARGES A 17-year-old woman has been charged in connection with a stabbing incident early yesterday morning. A man in his 20s suffered life-threatening injuries when he was stabbed in the chest around 3:30 a.m. in the 2700 block of 16th Ave SE. She faces aggravated assault, assault with a weapon and other charges. METRO CALGARY

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Video LRT lot fees bring parking crunch to residential streets at **metronews.ca/local**

Video Protesters call for former U.S. president Geroge W. Bush to be arrested as a war criminal at **metronews.ca/local**

Blogs Flare editor Lisa Tant on the disappointment of Toronto Fashion Week's Barbie-inspired collection.

Sorry about that, hot tub's on me, says realtor

JENNIFER HILLIKER
for Metro Calgary

HOMES John Hoppe and his wife, Ashley, thought they were getting a hot tub included when they bought their first home together.

When they moved into their Deer Ridge home in late January, the hot tub wasn't there due to a mistake made by their realtor, Ed Belanger. The previous owners had taken it with them because it was put in the wrong section of the contract. Even though the real estate business is far from booming these days, Belanger decided to rectify his mistake by buying the newly married couple a hot tub out of his own pocket.

"I was quite impressed ... legally, he didn't have to do squat," Hoppe said. "It was very honourable for him to admit that it was his mistake, let alone go above and beyond to fix it."

Belanger said he likes to look after his clients, and values the importance of word-of-mouth business.

"I look after these people, and they look after me," Belanger said. "I treat them like gold — that's the best way to make sure that they come back and tell their friends about me.

ROBIN KUNISKI / FOR METRO CALGARY

John Hoppe sits in his brand new hot tub at his Deer Ridge home. Their realtor, Ed Belanger, paid for the hot tub out of his own pocket after a mistake in the contract of the sale.

"It doesn't happen very often that I buy hot tubs for my clients, but I know what it's like to start off at their age. At this point, they don't need any headache."

Belanger said he rarely makes this kind of mistake, but when he does he has no problem fixing it. He's been working as a real estate agent in Calgary since 1989.

Youths gear up to bust a move

DANCE With the Young Canadians spring performance just around the corner, one member can't wait to get onstage.

Calling it one "big group of love," Young Canadian Luke Cole, 20, said his experiences with the group song and dance program through the Calgary Stampede Foundation have opened many doors for him.

"It's a huge opportunity for us to enrich our environments," Cole said. "It teaches you stage comfort whether you are singing or dancing or something else later on in life."

The Calgary Stampede Foundation provides Calgarians between seven and 20 years old the chance to perform and follow their dreams in a safe environment at no cost, artistic director Angela Benson said.

This weekend the Young Canadians will present their spring performance at MacEwan Hall. Their next performance will be during the Calgary Stampede. METRO CALGARY

Pilot fine after helicopter crash at Springbank
A man walked away from a helicopter crash unharmed yesterday morning at Springbank airport near Calgary. Transport Canada is investigating the incident. There was only one person on board. METRO CALGARY

Our Calgary West says MP blocking open nomination

TORIES A local organization is upset about what they call an attempt to block open nominations in Calgary West.

Donna Kennedy Glans, spokesperson for Our Calgary West said she believes Conservative MP Rob Anders' party caught wind of them selling memberships and felt threatened, hastily calling an AGM meeting.

"With the AGM call, we are seeing the usual tactics of cutting off memberships and disenfranchising members of the party in Calgary," she said.

A contact at Anders office said he has no control over the open nomination process in response to Our Calgary West.

The AGM meeting is scheduled to take place on March 28 at 2 p.m. at the Montgomery Community Centre.

KRISTA SYLVESTER/METRO CALGARY

MLAs misusing lottery grants: Liberal deputy

GRANTS Laurie Blakeman, a deputy leader with the Alberta Liberals, believes documents she obtained through a FOIP request raise alarms over how Tory MLAs are using lottery grants like a slush fund.

"Cabinet members get to choose grant recipients, the amounts they receive, and they control the timing of grant announcements," said Blakeman in a press release.

Premier Ed Stelmach said in question period yesterday that the process of obtaining grants is fair since it's done independently through ministry staff. METRO CALGARY

The beef stops here for local youth

LINDSEY WALLIS
for Metro Calgary

A grassroots organization created by a University of Calgary business student is talking to young people in their own language about how to "stop the beef."

"Beef" is slang for fighting, according to Stop the Beef founder Alyx Nanji, and he wants to help youth understand that they can walk away from violence.

Nanji understands having a "beef" all too well. When one of his friends was killed in a fight, he decided to take action,

"After (our friend's death) we felt that we needed to do something," Nanji said. "We needed to educate people so we could prevent this from happening again ... it takes everyone to do this."

Stopthebeef.ca has tips for youth on how to avoid violence and gangs as well as real-life interviews, shot at parties, about the opinions and experiences of youth between 15 and 25.

"After (our friend's death) we felt that we needed to do something."
Alyx Nanji, Stop the Beef founder

Kevin Brookwell, a spokesperson for the Calgary Police Service, applauds the group's initiative but warns there is a fine line between engaging the community and putting themselves at risk.

"They are trying to make a difference and we applaud them for that," he said. "But we know that the people they are talking to and about are dangerous individuals who have proven that they have no regard for the safety of others."

Tanisha Best said if it wasn't for Stop the Beef she would probably be in jail. She said the most important thing she learned was how to walk away from a bad situation.

"It really hit home after I lost a few of my friends ... I wanted to take a stand," Best said.

Best, now the VP external for Stop the Beef, was involved with gangs from a young age. She said that experiences help her to relate to the youth they work with.

George who? Some indifferent to former U.S. president's visit

JENNIFER HILLIKER
for Metro Calgary

ROBIN KUNISKI/FOR METRO CALGARY
Two-year-old JD Masur plays in the ball tub at Let's Play while Amanda O'Keefe and Lorie Masur talk about George W. Bush's visit to Calgary.

Although protesters showed up in droves and 1,500 Calgarians shelled out $400 per ticket to hear George W. Bush speak in Calgary yesterday, many others in the city simply didn't care.

Mother of two Amanda O'Keefe said she was simply too busy to pay attention to the former president.

"I'm indifferent about him," she said while playing with her 20-month-old son in the ball pit at Let's Play, a southeast Calgary recreation centre for children.

Shauna, another Calgary mother who declined to give her last name, said she has no real interest in Bush and she doesn't really think many Canadians do either, even protesters who showed up downtown.

"People just jump on the protest bandwagon — they don't really care what they're protesting about," she said.

Although Lorie Masur heard about Bush's visit yesterday morning, she doesn't see the point in his presence in Calgary.

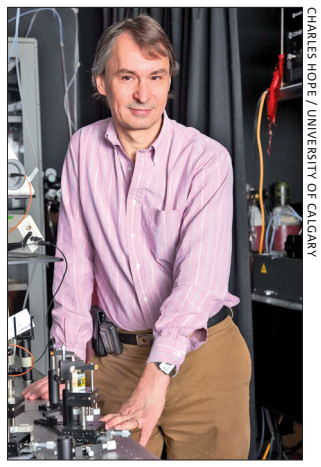
"When I heard about it, I had to laugh," she said. "He didn't seek a relationship with Canada when he was president. Now he thinks it's OK to come up here?"

Scientist named university's spinal cord research chair

HONOUR The University of Calgary Hotchkiss Brain Institute (HBI) announced the inaugural Dr. Frank LeBlanc chair in Spinal Cord Research yesterday.

Dr. Peter Stys is a scientist and researcher who has made several major discoveries in science and now calls Calgary home.

"He is a star researcher and is already having a massive impact on the spinal cord, multiple sclerosis and stroke programs here at the institute. We're extremely proud to have him as a member of our team," said Samuel Weiss, director of the HBI.


CHARLES HOPE / UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
Dr. Peter Stys

Weiss credits community investment for attracting researchers of Stys's caliber. METRO CALGARY

Alberta will host $30M coal gasification demonstration

HONOUR Alberta is going to be the site of a $30-million project underground coal gasification project.

The province is contributing $8.83 million toward a $30-million demonstration project with Calgary's Swan Hills Synfuels LP, the first of its kind in North America and at about 1,400 metres below the surface.

The project will be the deepest underground coal gasification ever conducted in the world. It will be located 17 kilometres southwest of Swan Hills, Alta. METRO CALGARY

Heritage minister criticizes CBC

Federal Heritage Minister James Moore used a Sunday television appearance in Quebec to criticize the amount of U.S. programming on the CBC. "I don't like it when I see the CBC cancelling Canadian content, and we see Jeopardy! and Wheel of Fortune," Moore said. **REUTERS**

Canada

Health claims hurting fish: Report

Claims about the human health benefits of eating more fish may be causing more environmental and social harm than good, according to a University of British Columbia study published yesterday in the Canadian Medical Association Journal. The health claims appear to be overblown, and many of the studies make people ignore the pressure increased consumption puts on dwindling global fish stocks, researchers say. **REUTERS**

Crash kills three Canadians

Truck collides with tourist bus, police say truck driver was drunk

Three Canadians, seven Americans and a Mexican bus driver are dead after their bus was hit by a truck — whose driver police allege was drunk — in northern Mexico, officials said yesterday.

The bus was carrying 23 American and Canadian tourists when a cargo truck swerved into its lane Monday and slammed into it head on, said an official from the civil protection agency. The crash occurred about 50 kilometres from Saltillo in the state of Coahuila.

Seventeen more were injured, some of them in serious condition, the official said.

The three Canadians to perish in the crash are being identified as Robert Lacas, 56, of Quebec City; Carolyn Kowaleski, 68, of Caledonia, Ont.; and Marilyn Jackson, 67, of Vancouver.

The bus, which had departed McAllen, Texas, was carrying tourists to the colonial mining town of Zacatecas, located in central Mexico.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

REUTERS/PEDRO MARTINEZ/ZOCALO DE SALTILLO

Red Cross paramedics remove an injured person from the site of a Monday bus accident on the outskirts of Saltillo in the Mexican state of Coahuila.

Chopper debate can wait: MacKay

PAUL MCLEOD
Metro Canada

HELICOPTER The time to re-evaluate helicopter use after the tragic accident off the coast of Newfoundland is later, said Defence Minister Peter MacKay yesterday in Halifax.

He said for now the government is focusing on mourning the 17 people who lost their lives.

"The short answer is no. At this point I don't believe there's anything that has been discovered," MacKay said when asked if he would be making changes to helicopter personnel deliveries. "But look, clearly there is going to be an investigation.

"They have not yet recovered the wreckage of the Sikorsky aircraft, (but there will be an investigation into) not only the recovery, but ... what was the cause."

Of the 16 passengers and two crew personnel, only one person was found alive and he remains in critical but stable condition.

News in brief

FUNERAL Roughly 1,000 relatives, friends and community members filled a Toronto church yesterday morning to remember and mourn Marc Diab, who was the 112th Canadian soldier to die in Afghanistan since 2002.

JACKPOT? An Ontario man is suing the province's gaming corporation for $42.9 million after he hit the jackpot on a slot machine but was denied his prize. The corporation says the slot machine was malfunctioning.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Halifax to get armoury, remodelled military homes
Defence Minister Peter MacKay was in Halifax yesterday to announce a new armoury and 18 remodelled military homes. The armoury will be the headquarters for three military police units. METRO CANADA

B.C. bans exotic house pets

JEFF HODSON
Metro Canada

SAFETY B.C. is banning potentially dangerous exotic pets two years after a woman was mauled and killed by a caged tiger in full view of her children.

Tania Dumstrey-Soos, 32, of Bridge Lake, B.C., died in May 2007 when a tiger reached through the bars of its cage and severed an artery in her leg.

The animal was one of several tigers and lions that her fiancé kept for display on their property.

"(The death) was completely needless and unnecessary," said Barry Penner, B.C.'s environment minister. "And it really did bring public attention that we need to take steps here in British Columbia."

The new Controlled Alien Species Regulation, which came into effect on Monday, lists a number of species, like tigers, alligators and pythons, that people are prohibited from owning.

"There are many examples of people being seriously injured or killed in North America by wild animals that are not native to this continent."

JEFF HODSON / METRO CANADA

Vancouver Aquarium's Darren Smy holds a boa constrictor named Pisco at the aquarium during a press conference in which the government announced it was banning potentially dangerous exotic pets.

Economic tale of two provinces

REPORT The rural province of Saskatchewan will have the strongest economic performance in Canada this year and the industrialized province of Ontario will be hardest hit by global recession and financial market turmoil, reports from two Canadian banks said yesterday.

Toronto-Dominion Bank and Bank of Nova Scotia both expect broad economic weakness across the country, pushing the overall economy to contract 2.4 per cent in 2009.

Scotia forecast the Saskatchewan economy will not grow, but will not contract either.

TD and Scotia expect the steepest slowdowns to come in Ontario and Quebec, where manufacturing is critical to economic health. Ontario, the country's most populous province, is expected to contract for a second straight year. REUTERS

News in brief

ATTACK ADS Nova Scotia's provincial Tories began flexing their financial might yesterday with a series of attack ads against the NDP. Last month Metro reported the Tories had saved about $450,000 for an election, much more than the NDP's $250,000. The new TV and radio ads continue the recent theme of the NDP being too risky to elect during a recession. Party president Scott Armstrong said his party isn't pushing for an election but is gearing up for one either way.

HAITI Canada has been asked to consider giving money directly to the Haitian government instead of solely aid organizations on the ground, International Co-operation Minister Bev Oda said yesterday, Torstar News Service reported. "They've come up with a national strategy for growth and poverty reduction and they are actually asking Canada for the first time to consider budgetary support to the government," Oda said from Haiti. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Ethnic stat collecting causes furor

French President Nicholas Sarkozy has caused an uproar with plans to collect statistics on ethnic origins to help minorities. "The controversy shows we're not at peace with our identity," said Francois Heran, director of the National Institute of Demographic Studies. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

World

Robot hits catwalk

From IT labs to photo grabs, a Japanese humanoid robot will soon be strutting her hardware and software on the fashion catwalk. The sleek HRP-4C runs on battery-powered motors located in her body and face, allowing the expressions, gait and poses of a supermodel, but on a stormtrooper-like silver-and-black frame. REUTERS

News in brief

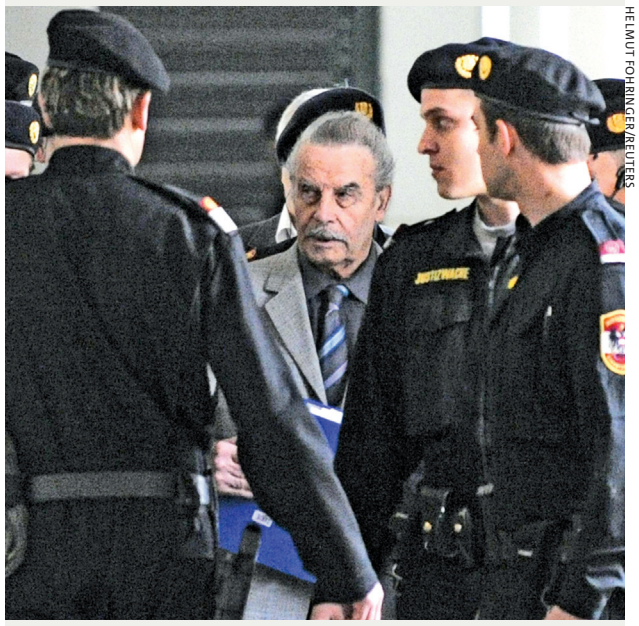
MILITARY Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said yesterday that Russia would rearm its military and boost its nuclear forces in spite of the raging economic crisis because U.S.-led NATO is expanding toward its borders.

PLANNING China has approved a "modern redesign" of Tibet's remote and mountainous capital Lhasa, state media said yesterday, including a limit on its downtown population.

PAKISTAN The Pakistani government will restore democracy quickly in its biggest and politically most important province as part of reconciliation efforts, Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani said yesterday.

UKRAINE Radiation has affected animals living near the site of Ukraine's Chernobyl nuclear disaster far more than was previously thought, a study showed, challenging beliefs that local wildlife was on the rebound. REUTERS

Austria **Grim charges**



HELMUT FOHRINGER/REUTERS

Defendant Josef Fritzl arrives for his trial in Sankt Poelten, Austria, yesterday. Fritzl, a 73-year-old Austrian who locked his daughter in a cellar for 24 years and fathered seven children with her, pleaded guilty to incest but denied murdering a newborn son who died underground.

Pope: Condoms no solution for AIDS crisis

Pontiff reaffirms opposition during African visit

Pope Benedict yesterday reaffirmed the Roman Catholic Church's opposition to the use of condoms in the fight against AIDS as he started a visit to Africa, where more than 25 million people have died from the disease in recent decades.

The Pope, who arrived to a tumultuous welcome in the capital of Cameroon, also said the continent's people were suffering disproportionately due to the global challenges of food shortages, financial crises and climate change.

"It (AIDS) cannot be overcome by the distribution of condoms. On the contrary, they increase the problem," he said in response to a question about the church's widely contested position against the use of condoms.

His words were some of his most explicit on the use of condoms to stop the spread of AIDS since his election in 2005.

The church teaches that fidelity within heterosexual marriage, chastity and abstinence are the best ways to stop AIDS. It does not approve condoms but some church leaders have been calling for allowing their use in rare cases between married heterosexual couples where one partner has the disease.

With the number of practising Catholics dwindling in the developed world, Africa is seen as vital to the church's future, but the relationship is not without controversy. REUTERS

In America ...

- With a large poor and minority population, Washington, D.C., has struggled with HIV for decades. A recent report showed the number of people with HIV infections rose 22 per cent from 2006 to 2007.

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DATE: Thurs, March 19th: 1pm - 8pm
Sat, March 21st: 10am - 3pm

ADDRESS: Calgary Northeast Campus
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403.569.8973

See our ad for details, or check out:
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Thursday, March 19th
1 pm to 8 pm

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Stray dogs kill boy, maim tourist in Italy
Stray dogs maimed a German tourist in a Sicilian town yesterday, two days after killing a 10-year-old boy in the same area. REUTERS

Sub studies rising seas

Data to help understanding of melting ice

A robot submarine has found clues to rising world sea levels by making trips deep beneath an ice shelf in Antarctica, scientists said yesterday.

The seven-metre submarine was making the first inspection of the underside of the shelf off the Pine Island glacier in a U.S.-British mission.

"Because so little is known about ice sheet behaviour, this research will take us a step further in understanding how ice sheets will contribute to sea-level rise," Stan Jacobs, the U.S. lead scientist from Columbia University, said in a statement.

Glacier

• The Pine Island glacier is the fastest-moving in Antarctica and its slide towards the ocean is accelerating. It brings more water to the sea than Europe's Rhine River and is adding about 0.25 millimetres a year to global sea levels.

World sea levels would rise by about five metres if the ice of West Antarctica, including the Pine Island glacier, melted, he said. Experts fear global warming could trigger a thaw.

Making six trips up to 70 kilometres into the cavity, once surviving a collision with ice, the battery-powered Autosub took sonar measurements of the ice and studied the salinity of the water as part of a 53-day research cruise this year.

REUTERS

Cybersquatting hit record in '08

ONLINE Companies and celebrities ranging from the Arsenal football club to actress Scarlett Johansson filed a record number of "cybersquatting" cases in 2008 to stop others from profiting from their famous names, brands and events, a United Nations agency reports.

The most common business sector in which complaints arose was pharmaceuticals, due to websites offering sales of medicines with protected names. Other top sectors for complaints were banking and finance, Internet and telecommunications, retail, and food, beverages and restaurants.

REUTERS

News in brief

COURT The UN tribunal for the former Yugoslavia reduced the jail sentence of Bosnian Serb leader Momcilo Krajisnik from 27 to 20 years yesterday.

POLITICS Madagascar's President Marc Ravalomanana handed power to the armed forces yesterday, paving the way for an opposition takeover.

REUTERS

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Dumb as a dinosaur

TheWestView

Paul Sullivan

metronews.ca/thewestview

Meet Hesperonychus elizabethae, the smallest dinosaur ever to stalk the Jurassic jungles of North America.

Hesperonychus lived 75 million years ago, weighed about two kilograms and stood about 50 centimetres tall. He was the equivalent of a prehistoric chicken, complete with feathers.

Only much nastier.

Hesperonychus was a tiny, perfect relative of Velociraptor, the ferocious thug featured in the Jurassic Park movies, and came equipped with its cousin's sharp claws and teeth. You wouldn't want to run into a flock of these dino-mites.

Hesperonychus was discovered by Canadian Nick Longrich, a paleontologist at the University of Calgary, who did his fieldwork by rummaging around in a drawer.

Apparently the little dino's bones had been dug up in 1982, but no one took a close look at the little hip bone in question until 2007 when Longrich acted on a hunch.

Previous paleontologists had taken a pass, believing it to be from a juvenile of a known species, but Longrich noted discoveries of small dinos in Asia, and wondered why no one had found their North American relatives.

Like, um, a dog with a bone, he deduced that it represented a whole new species.

A very Canadian discovery, this.

A four-pound prehistoric chicken discovered at the back of a drawer in a university lab.

What's so important about this fierce, but fortunately extinct little beast?

Well, it begins to paint a more complete picture of the Jurassic ecology; it tells us more about the ancestors of our feathered friends, and it reminds us that big things come in small packages.

Longrich himself sees an object lesson — Hesperonychus avoided detection, even if it was right under our noses all this time, because of something he calls "collecting bias" — paleontologists are human too, so they spend most of their time looking for T-Rex and have a tendency to ignore such tiny treasures.

It takes a Canadian sensibility, I guess, to think small enough.

I hate to end this on a depressing note, but of course this discovery has prompted the people who learned their natural history studying the Flintstones, to state with conviction that Hesperonychus could not be 75 million years old, because as any idiot knows God created the world only 6013 years ago, and it took him seven days to do it.

It's hard to believe that such stupidity and lucidity can co-exist at the same time in the same nation, but that's evolution for you.

I remain confident that natural selection will take care of the former, and advance the latter.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Online Chatter

Is this old-fashioned approach still valid?

Re: Milk-bag mats for Third World countries (March 15)

We are uncertain as to the real environmental and ethical costs of this venture.

Recycling is definitely important, however sending our recycled materials thousands of kilometres overseas does nothing to help sustain the environment, and milk-bag mats simply give us a reason to continue to over-consume plastic.

From an ethical point of view, is it right to send our waste that we don't want, to others?

Plastic bags do exist in Third World countries, but proper mats and teddy bears are scarce.

This seems to be a fairly ignorant attempt to solve a problem without fully understanding the real situation. **Comments by username: huh**

twitter

Re: George W. Bush's visit to Canada

I think people are hoping something will happen to Bush while he's here, but Calgary's too sleepy to actually try anything.

Tweet by ideagrrrl @metrocalgary

Re: George W. Bush's visit to Canada

It was bad form to only allow a few elites to hear the talk. All of Calgary could have benefited from the discussion.

Tweet by muunkky @metrocalgary

Metro does not verify the identities of online commentators. Comments may be edited for space.
To comment on these and other stories, log onto metronews.ca.
Follow Metro on Twitter @metrocalgary

Word on the street: What outdoor activity do you most look forward to once the weather warms up?

Paul Grossi
age 25, Toronto
A: Drinking sangrias on a patio at 11:30 a.m. and then going to work and pretending I didn't.

John Crouch
age 22, Toronto
A: Going to the pool at the Four Seasons, and go-karting at The Docks.

Brittney Williams
age 20, Calgary
A: I don't need the weather to warm up — I'm a hockey girl.

Natia Wong
age 18, Calgary
A: Soccer. I've always been into the sport.

Andrew Black
age 22, Halifax
A: I'm looking forward to hiking and camping again. I just don't like pavement.

Kelly Soucie
age 22, Hull, Que.
A: Being able to walk outside or rollerblade. I like the fresh air and finally being outdoors again.

Metro Online Poll Results

63% SAID YES	Should CBC Radio run ads to fend off funding woes? *Weigh in on today's question at metronews.ca*	37% SAID NO

It's your turn to tell others what you think. Email your thoughts and opinions to: calgaryletters@metronews.ca
Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

Italian porn star strips in Milan bourse protest 9

An Italian pornographic actress stripped down to her panties at the Milan stock exchange yesterday to protest against the financial crisis, police said. "Italy is down to its underpants," Laura Perego, 22, shouted before being taken away. REUTERS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Loans dependent on looks?

Those judged trustworthy more likely to get to borrow: Study

A credit score can tell a lender a lot about a prospective borrower, but so can the borrower's looks, a new study says.

People who are perceived to be trustworthy are more likely to have a higher credit score and pay lower interest rates on loans, and are less likely to default, according to the study by Rice University in Houston, Tex.

Even when hard facts such as credit scores are available, people rely on an assessment of trustworthiness to decide whether to make a loan.

Researchers studied members of Prosper.com, an online lending site where people looking for loans are matched up with individual lenders.

A team of 25 people was hired to rate Prosper.com loan applicants' trustworthiness on a scale of one to five, using only the photographs of the borrowers.

Those judged to be trustworthy by the team were more likely to get a loan from Prosper.com lenders and tended to have a credit score about 20 points higher than those determined to be untrustworthy, the researchers found.

"Untrustworthy" borrowers were seven per cent more likely to default on their loan than a perceived trustworthy borrower with the same credit score.

REUTERS

Scrapping prejudices

- To make sure that the evaluators' prejudices did not skew the results, the researchers controlled the study for race, age, gender, obesity, attractiveness and education, as well as financial factors like employment status, income and homeownership.

Congress eyes bonus surtax amid AIG outrage

WASHINGTON Some members of Congress yesterday proposed slapping a surtax on bonuses paid to executives at American International Group Inc. amid outrage over the large payouts.

Michigan Democratic Representative Gary Peters introduced a bill in the House to impose a 60 per cent surtax on bonuses over $10,000 US at any company in which the U.S. government has at least a 79 per cent equity stake.

"Currently, AIG is the only company that meets this threshold," Peters said in a statement. "The legislation I'm proposing will get taxpayers their money back."

REUTERS

In brief

WIRELESS Telus Corp., Canada's No. 2 telephone company, plans to spend $500 million this year on building out telecom infrastructure in its home province of British Columbia, it said yesterday.

REUTERS

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Anheuser-Busch ending sponsorship of hot rod racing
Anheuser-Busch InBev, the world's biggest brewer, will discontinue its sponsorship of the National Hot Rod Association after this season. REUTERS

Pfizer launches $13.5B debt sale

PHARMA Pfizer Inc., the world's largest drugmaker, launched a $13.5-billion US debt sale in five parts yesterday, said IFR.

The bond sale has garnered about $27 billion in interest, buy-side sources said, with about 1,700 orders placed, one trader said.

If the size of Pfizer's bond sale remains where it was launched, it will be the second-largest U.S. dollar-denominated corporate bond ever priced.

REUTERS

Deal managers

- Bank of America, Barclays, Citigroup, Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan are the joint lead managers of the deal.

IMF sees contraction

Global economy predicted to shrink 0.6% in '09

The International Monetary Fund expects the global economy to contract 0.6 per cent this year, according to forecasts provided yesterday by an IMF official at a conference in Lisbon.

Teresa Ter-Minassian, an adviser to IMF managing director Dominique Strauss-Kahn, told reporters the figure was likely to be released shortly by the IMF. It compares with the IMF's last official forecast for the global economy, released in January, which pointed to global growth of 0.5 per cent.

The U.S. economy is seen shrinking 2.6 per cent this year, compared with a January forecast of a 1.6 per cent contraction.

The euro zone economy is expected to contract 3.2 per cent and Japan's by five per cent, she said.

REUTERS

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These offers expire on April 30, 2009 but are subject to change or withdrawal at any time. All rates are compounded semi-annually, not in advance. These offers assume an appraisal fee of $200 at the time of initial advance, a mortgage of $100,000, a 25-year amortization, and that the mortgage is solicitor/notary facilitated. Other conditions may apply.

Dell unveils the world's thinnest laptop

TECHNOLOGY Dell Inc. unveiled its "luxury" Adamo laptop yesterday, calling it the world's thinnest notebook as it seeks to compete in the high-end ultra-portable market defined by Apple Inc.'s MacBook Air.

The sleek, aluminum-encased notebook is 0.65-inches thick and comes with a 13.4-inch screen and a 128-gigabyte solid-state drive.

Starting at $1,999 US, the Adamo is positioned as Dell's new high-end brand. Another configuration will sell for $2,699.

"This is for the customer that has that discerning taste and is willing to pay a little more."
John New, marketing executive

The device comes packed in a clear case along with an optional branded sleeve or tote bag from designer luggage and handbag label Tumi.

The Adamo is meant "to make a design statement, to surprise people that this is a Dell," said marketing executive John New. "This is for the customer that has that discerning taste and is willing to pay a little more for that."

REUTERS

Caterpillar cuts another 2,454 jobs

CONSTRUCTION Caterpillar Inc., the world's largest maker of construction and mining equipment, notified an additional 2,454 workers in three U.S. states yesterday that they were losing their jobs as the company continues to try to bring production in line with plummeting demand.

The bulk of the job cuts – nearly 1,600 in all – will come in Illinois at the company's plants in East Peoria, which makes track-type tractors and pipe layers, and Aurora, where it makes hydraulic excavators and wheel loaders.

The company also said it is closing a fuel systems factory in Jefferson, Ga., and cutting jobs in Indiana.

REUTERS

Rocket forward shot in leg
Houston Rockets forward Carl Landry was shot in the leg while driving near his home early yesterday morning. The injury to his leg was minor, and the team says the player was treated at a hospital and released. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Brodeur passes Roy

Martin Brodeur, left, is now the NHL's all-time winningest netminder. Brodeur made 30 saves last night to help the New Jersey Devils defeat the Chicago Blackhawks 3-2. The 36-year-old Brodeur notched the 552nd win of his illustrious career to surpass Patrick Roy for the most victories in league history. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

Injury keeps Canadian off the court

As March Madness kicks off, Robert Sacre can only cheer for Gonzaga teammates

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

It's the most exciting time of the year in NCAA basketball — and Robert Sacre is on the outside looking in.

Sacre, a seven-footer from North Vancouver and one of Canada's top basketball prospects, has been ruled out for the rest of Gonzaga's season with a broken foot, ending a nightmarish sophomore campaign that lasted just five games.

Instead of being in the heat of the action, Sacre will be in plainclothes while the nationally 12th-ranked Bulldogs (26-5) face the Akron Zips (23-12) tomorrow.

"It's very frustrating, but you just have to accept it and deal with it," said Sacre, who will gain a season of eligibility because of medical redshirt rules. "I'll cheer as much as I possibly (can) on the sidelines. That's all I can do, so why not?"

Sacre actually broke his foot twice this season. He suffered the initial break before the season started and didn't get back into the lineup until late November, then landed awkwardly on the healed foot five games into his comeback on Dec. 10. He called it a "freak accident."

"It was really hard for me," Sacre said. "Especially because when I came down the second time, I just knew it was a break. That was the hardest part. But you just have to accept it. Things happen, and you can't blame anyone for it."

Sacre, who was a starter in last year's opening-round loss to Davidson in the NCAA Tournament, remains one of the most highly-touted big men to come out of Canada in years and will look to get his career back on track in the fall.

He averaged 2.8 points and 1.8 rebounds as a freshman.

"I need to work on my inside game, my rebounding and my defence," he said. "I know what I need to work on and I'll just focus on that and perfect those skills."

With Sacre on the sidelines, Gonzaga is still considered a threat to do damage at the NCAA Tournament. They've struggled in recent years, advancing beyond the first weekend just once in the past seven seasons. Sacre has high hopes.

"We've had our ups and downs, but we're looking good," Sacre said. "You just have to play as hard as you can and see what happens."

Canadian content

If you follow March Madness, a number of Canadian names may come across your screen. Here's a look at some.

- TYLER KEPKAY, Utah (24-9): The senior guard from Vancouver and high-school teammate of Robert Sacre averages 30.4 minutes and 10.1 points per game.
- ANDY RAUTINS, Syracuse (23-8): Rautins, a six-foot-five junior and the son of national-team head coach Leo Rautins, is fourth in Syracuse scoring with 10.5 points per game.
- SHAMAR COOMBS, Texas A&M (18-15): Coombs is a six-foot-one junior guard from Toronto who has produced 8.1 points per game while averaging 24.7 minutes of floor time.
- WILLIE GALICK, Cal State Northridge (17-13): One of the more productive Canadians in the NCAA, the six-foot-eight junior from Nanaimo, B.C., averages 9.2 points and 5.4 rebounds.
- DEVOE JOSEPH, Minnesota (22-10): The Ajax, Ont., native is a six-foot-three freshman who averages 16.8 minutes and 5.1 points per game off the Golden Gophers bench.
- OTHERS TO WATCH FOR: Ifeanyi Ehirim, Robert Morris (Calgary); Tyrell Mara, Portland St. (White Rock, B.C.); Alex Hill, Cornell (Toronto); Ryan Wright, Oklahoma (Mississauga, Ont.)

JIM ROGASH/GETTY IMAGES

Robert Sacre, seen here playing for the Gonzaga Bulldogs in 2007, will be unable to play in the NCAA Tournament.

Sports in brief

BASEBALL World Series MVP Cole Hamels of the Philadelphia Phillies has no structural damage to his tender left elbow, but is not certain to start the season, the team said yesterday. The 25-year-old pitcher was diagnosed with inflammation in his pitching elbow and is set to resume training in two days.

BASEBALL Fourteen-time all-star catcher Ivan Rodriguez seems set to sign with the Houston Astros after the World Baseball Classic. General manager Ed Wade told the team's website the deal was in the "discussion phase" before adding, "in the last few days we see there is a possibility to get something done."

OLYMPICS Squash should be accepted into the 2016 Olympic program because the sport is economical to host, the president of squash's world governing body said. The International Olympic Committee will decide in October whether to introduce up to two new sports for the 2016 Games.

REUTERS

Metro Drive

World Car finalists

Ford Fiesta, Toyota iQ, and Volkswagen Golf VI have been named the finalists for the 2009 World Car Award. The top three entries for the World Car Design of the Year were Citroën C5 Sedan/C5 Tourer, Fiat 500, and Jaguar XF. The winners will be named at the New York International Auto Show April 9. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Heading out on hybrid highway

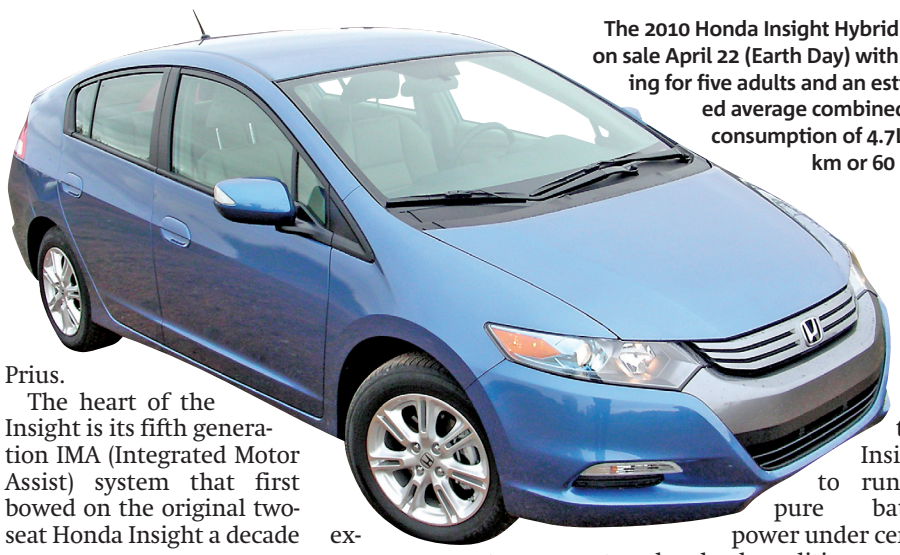
Honda Insight Hybrid takes the next giant step in environmentally-friendly vehicles

JIM ROBINSON
for Metro Canada

Honda has passed the next great milestone on the road to a greener future with the 2010 Insight Hybrid.

Smaller than a Honda Civic, the Insight five-door hatchback seats five adults, has a flat cargo floor with the back seat folded and can travel up to 640 kilometre on one 40-litre tank of gas.

The Insight doesn't go on sale until Earth Day (April 22) and pricing has yet to be announced, but it will be "competitive" with its main rival, the Toyota Prius.



The 2010 Honda Insight Hybrid goes on sale April 22 (Earth Day) with seating for five adults and an estimated average combined fuel consumption of 4.7L/100 km or 60 mpg.

The heart of the Insight is its fifth generation IMA (Integrated Motor Assist) system that first bowed on the original two-seat Honda Insight a decade ago.

IMA uses energy stored in a battery pack to provide extra power to the engine when needed. What is different is the new IMA allows the Insight to run on pure battery power under certain low load conditions.

A 1.3-litre, four-cylinder gasoline engine and a 10-kilowatt electric motor are the power source of the IMA system. Combined, they produce 98 hp and 123 lb/ft of torque. An ultra-thin brushless DC motor is located between the engine and the CVT transmission. During acceleration, the motor adds power. Under braking or gentle deceleration, it acts as a generator capturing kinetic energy to recharge the battery.

When you come to a stop, the engine turns off and the Insight runs on the battery. When you move off, the engine comes back on. Honda calls this Idle Stop.

The seven-module nickel metal hydride (Ni-MH) battery is composed of 84 D-size (1.2 volt) cells giving a total of 100.8 volts and a capacity of 5.7 ampere-hours. Because it has fewer than the 11 modules in the Civic Hybrid, Honda engineers were able to place it under the floor along with the Intelligent Power Unit (IPU) that controls the IMA system. Besides the battery pack, the IPU contains the power control unit (ECU) and electric control unit (ECU) along with the cooling system for the battery pack.

Despite its complexity, the Insight is straightforward to drive, but there are some interesting extras.

The layout of the instrument panel is like the Civic with an upper tier for the digital speed readout and a lower tier for the tachometre and fuel level. But on the upper level, the speed (shown in numerals) is backed by a colour band that is coloured blue when fuel is being used aggressively. It turns blue-green when the driving style is moderate and then green when fuel is being consumed efficiently. So, at a glance you can tell if you are being good or bad to the environment.

There will be two trim levels in Canada starting with the LX that features climate control, power locks/windows/doors, remote entry, cruise control and more.

The EX adds stability control, alloy wheels, steering wheel mounted paddle shifters, Honda's navigation system with bilingual voice recognition and Bluetooth connectivity.

Unsaid at the unveiling of the Insight was the sense Honda is turning its attention to positioning itself as the "affordable" green car company as the slightly larger Civic Hybrid will continue to be sold on the same showroom floor.

And with the 2010 Insight, Honda has made a great first step in that direction.

2010 Honda Insight

Type: Compact hybrid hatchback
Price: N/A
Engine: 1.3-litre SOHC inline four-cylinder engine and 10 kilowatt electric motor (98 hp, 123 lb/ft)
Drive method: front-engine, front-wheel drive
Fuel economy: (Estimated) 4.8/4.5/4.7L/100 km (58/62/60 mpg) city/highway/combined

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[1]Only on the 2009 Versa Sedan 1.6 (B4EG59 AA00), 2009 Versa Hatch 1.8 S (B5LG59 AA00), and 2009 Sentra 2.0 (C4LG59 AA00) models. **MSRP for a 2009 Versa Sedan 1.6 (B4EG59 AA00), manual transmission/ 2009 Versa Hatch 1.8 S (B5LG59 AA00), manual transmission/ 2009 Sentra 2.0 (C4LG59 AA00), manual transmission. ¥Lowest MSRP of any new 2009 Car sold in Canada. $12,498 MSRP for a 2009 Versa Sedan 1.6 S (B4EG59 AA00). Freight and PDE charges ($1,325), license, registration, insurance, duties and applicable taxes (including excise tax and fuel conservation tax, where applicable) are extra. All prices are subject to change without notice. †Program applies only to purchase finance offers on all 2009 Nissan models (except for the 2009 Nissan GT-R, 350Z and 370Z models) purchased and delivered before March 31st, 2009. Offer does not apply to Nissan Canada Finance standard rate programs. Delayed payment option not available on cash purchase offers. 1st monthly payment occurs at 90 days into finance contract. Contracts will be extended accordingly. Interest charge (if any) will not accrue during the first 60 days of the contract. After the 60 days, interest (if any) starts to accrue and the purchaser will repay the principal and interest (if any) monthly over the term of the contract. Offer available on terms up to 72 months. ††0% purchase financing for up to 36 months available only on all 2009 Versa Hatch, Sentra, Altima Sedan, Rogue and Titan models. Finance Example for a 2009 Versa Hatch 1.8 S (B5LG59 AA00): $15,323 Selling Price, including ($1,325) freight and PDE financed at 0% APR for 36 months equals $286.75 per month with $5,000 down payment. Cost of borrowing is $0 for a total obligation of $15,323. Up to $84 PPSA, license, insurance registration and taxes are extra. ‡Lease Examples: $13,823/ $15,323/ $15,573 Selling Price for a new 2009 Versa Sedan 1.6 (B4EG59 AA00)/ 2009 Versa Hatchback 1.8 S (B5LG59 AA00)/ 2009 Sentra 2.0 (C4LG59 AA00) at 5.9%/ 2.9%/ 3.9% lease rate for a 60/60/60 month term. Monthly payment is $189/ $189/ $189 including ($1,325)/ ($1,325)/ ($1,325) freight and PDE with $950/ $895/ $1,050 down payment, and $0/$0/$0 security deposit. License, registration, insurance, duties and applicable taxes (including excise tax and fuel conservation tax, where applicable) are extra. All prices are subject to change without notice. Retailer may lease for less. Lease based on a maximum of 24,000 km per year with excess charged at $0.10/km. Total lease obligation is $12,314/ $12,216.31/ $12,392.74. Lease and finance offers are available on approved credit through Nissan Canada Finance for a limited time, may change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers. Retailers are free to set individual prices. Retailer order/ trade may be necessary. Vehicles may require factory order. Offers valid between March 3rd to March 31st, 2009. ■Offer applies only to 2009 Versa Hatchback models on 36 to 60 month lease terms. Offer valid between March 3rd to March 31st, 2009. ▲Based on Transport Canada approved test methods. Your actual fuel consumption may vary with driving conditions - use for comparison only. ▲▲$16,898 MSRP for a 2009 Versa Hatch 1.8 SL (B5RG59 AA00/AA10), manual transmission/ $22,598 MSRP for a 2009 Sentra 2.0 SL (C4TG19 AA00), CVT transmission. Destination and PDE charges ($1,325)/ ($1,325), license, registration, insurance, duties and applicable taxes (including excise tax and fuel conservation tax, where applicable) are extra. All prices are subject to change without notice cannot be combined with any other offers. Retailer may sell for less. [1]WardsAuto.com's Lower Small segment, 2008. 2009 Versa 1.8 vs. 2008 competitors. [2]©2008 AutoPacific, Inc. Ideal Vehicle Award. [3]Government star ratings are part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) New Car Assessment Program (www.safercar.gov).). U.S. model tested with standard side airbags.

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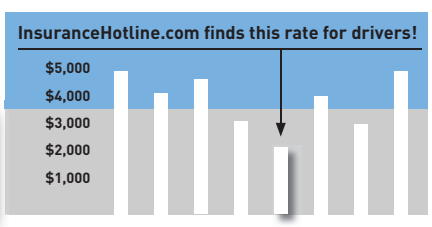

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Having fun with potholes

AutoPilot
Michael Goetz
metronews.ca/autopilot

COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"Pothole spawning season" usually starts in late February and extends to the beginning of May.

It was a dark and stormy night. It was raining so hard everyone had to have their wipers on at top speed — even the pedestrians.

It was already hard to spot the potholes, but now that they were full of water, you couldn't tell what was just a puddle and what was a crater. Up ahead were two lurking potholes. To stay in my lane, I had to drive through at least one. I know I was going to pick the wrong one, just like I always pick the wrong line at McDonald's.

So I drive into this pothole and emerge about 11 minutes later.

OK, slight exaggeration, but it was big. Big enough that when the left front wheel dropped into it, and the suspension bottomed out with a big THUD, I yelled out some deity's name in vain.

Apparently, this was not the only pothole in the city of Toronto. Myles Currie, the city's director of transportation services, told me that in 2008 the city fixed 277,000 potholes. So far this year, it has already fixed about 75,000, almost 100 per cent more than for the same three-month period in 2008.

Currie "filled me in," pun intended, on some pothole fun facts.

The main contributor to how many potholes are created is the number of freeze-thaw cycles we get. When it's above freezing, melting snow and ice creeps into cracks to get below the road. Then when things freeze shortly after, the below-the-road water becomes ice, which expands and pushes up the asphalt. Then when vehicles drive over that pushed-up asphalt, it usually breaks, and voila, a pretty pothole.

"We've already had about 17 of those cycles this past winter, that's why we have such an increase in potholes over last year," said Currie. Normally, the peak time for freeze-thaw cycles starts in late February and extends to the beginning of May (a.k.a. pothole spawning season).

But this winter Toronto has been in juicy freeze-thaw mode since mid-December.

Because the city knew a bumper crop was coming, it increased the number of crews on daily pothole repair duty to 30 or 40 from last year's norm of about 15. A crew is made up of two or three workers.

The repair process is not complex.

"We do our best to sweep out any debris from the hole, then fill it in with hot asphalt, tamp it, then move on to the next one," Currie said. Forty crews can usually fix about 2,500 potholes a day, which works out to about $25 per repair.

So far, the city has already spent about $1 million to repair those 75,000 holes in 2009, and figures it spent $6.9 million to attend to those 277,000 holes that showed up in 2008.

If holes get really big, workers have to square it off, fill it in, and roll it.

"That's why we really want to hear from the public," Currie said. "Because our obvious preference is to get to these potholes when they're smaller."

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for more than 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.

Volvo extends DRIVe range

Volvo is extending its green DRIVe range after dramatically reducing CO2 levels and increasing fuel efficiency in seven models.

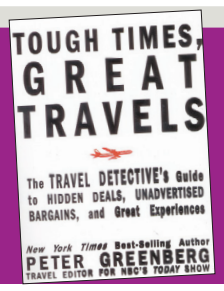
The full DRIVe range was unveiled at the Geneva Motor Show and will include the XC60 crossover, V70 and XC70 premium wagons and S80 executive sedan.

The current DRIVe cars, C30 SportsCoupe, S40 sedan and V50 Sportswagon all offer class leading CO2 emissions thanks to an intelligent Start/Stop system.

All the new DRIVe models will be available in Europe in summer 2009 with further specification and pricing details being announced closer to the release. **FROM CARGUIDE**

The cheap seats
Increasing numbers of business travellers are foregoing executive-class seats and flying economy, especially in Europe, the International Air Transport Association said yesterday. **REUTERS**

Travel



Armchair travel

If you think a vacation is out of reach this year, sit down and have a look at Tough Times, Great Travels (Rodale, $10.95) by Peter Greenberg. The author, who is the travel editor of NBC's Today Show, is confident that if you know the ins and outs of scoring travel deals, you'll be able to hit the beach even in the leanest of times. METRO NEWS SERVICES

TRAVELDESK@METRONEWS.CA

An indie traveller's Caribbean guide

If all-inclusive resorts bore you to tears, strike out on your own

DAVID WHITLEY
for Metro Canada

For many of us, the Caribbean equates to resorts, cruise ships and neatly packaged-up holidays. But with so many islands offering so many different experiences, it seems a bit of a shame to not attempt a bit of an island hop.

Despite the focus on package tourism, it is surprisingly easy to travel around the Caribbean independently — it's just a case of knowing where to look.

Getting there

The first step of island hopping is choosing the first base. It will invariably work out cheaper to go in a circle, arriving at and departing from the same Caribbean island with a return flight from Canada, perhaps via a hub in the U.S. Major Caribbean entry points are Antigua, St. Maarten, St. Lucia, Jamaica and Puerto Rico.

It may be worth paying slightly more to start at one of the smaller islands in the Lesser Antilles (such as St. Maarten or Antigua), as flights between the smaller islands tend to be much cheaper. Sites such as Skyscanner, skyscanner.net, and Kayak, kayak.com, are useful starting points for prices and routes.

Getting around

With so many islands so close together, it would seem logical that there would be good ferry services between them. Alas, logic doesn't always apply to the Caribbean.

Good services can be found in between the U.S. and British Virgin Islands, and between islands in the same nation (such as St. Kitts and Nevis). Otherwise, there are services between St. Maarten and Anguilla, St. Barths and Saba, a highly unreliable occasional service from Antigua to Montserrat and L'Express des Iles, express-des-iles.com, which ploughs between St. Lucia, Martinique, Dominica and Guadaloupe.

Given the perplexing lack of sea transport, small prop planes are the most common way to get between islands. Island-hoppers will almost inevitably take a LIAT flight, liatairline.com.

Its major hubs are Barbados, Antigua and Trinidad, and the further in advance the tickets are bought, the cheaper they tend to be.

Other airlines that you may come across are American Eagle (San Juan, Puerto Rico), WinAir (St. Maarten) and Air Jamaica.

On-island transport

Car hire is available on just about every island, and most of the time it just involves signing a few documents and handing over a small sum at the local police station.

Taxis are also readily available, but can get quite expensive. A cost-effective measure is to group together with two or three other travellers and hire a driver for the day at a pre-agreed price. By far the most fun option, however, is taking a local bus.

These aren't buses as we'd recognize them — they're usually brightly-painted mini-vans that plough a set route, picking passengers up absolutely anywhere on the way. They're cheap, but expect to be sandwiched into a small seat, surrounded by pets and shopping bags, whilst ear-splitting reggae or soca music blasts out of the stereo. The routes generally link major towns, and they often don't go near isolated resort areas.

MACDUFF EVERTON/THE IMAGE BANK

Exploring a bay in St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands. If you're looking to find your own way around the Caribbean on a budget, local buses, family-run guesthouses and the fare served up at beach shacks and rum shops will among the services you'll rely on.

"With so many islands so close together, it would seem logical there would be good ferry services between them. Alas, logic doesn't always apply to the Caribbean."

Accommodation

Throughout the Caribbean you'll find small, family-run guesthouses that aren't particularly flashy, but they're usually clean and do the job nicely. It's rare to find guesthouses on the beach but rooms can usually be found for under $80 per night.

Finding out about these guesthouses can be a problem. Some will show up on kayak.com but they usually need to be contacted by phone. Hostelworld, hostelworld.com, is a better bet. Lonely Planet's Caribbean Islands lists a decent selection, and each island's tourist board website often lists accommodations.

Eating out

Food can be inordinately expensive in the Caribbean — particularly given that the quality isn't always that good. The secret is to avoid the restaurants and go where the locals go.

Shabby-looking cafés, beach shacks and rum shops will usually provide a good feed without breaking the bank. Menu choices will be limited (often either "the chicken" or "the fish") and you'll get heartily sick of rice and peas after a couple of weeks, but the portions are usually fairly big.

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Cleveland goes West
As if performing on American Idol last Wednesday wasn't enough, Kanye West capped off a week of work at Fox on Thursday by sitting in on a table read of new animated sitcom The Cleveland Show — a Family Guy spin-off. **PEOPLE.COM**

Entertainment

The unsigned

Kirsten Dunst has not signed on for Spider-Man 4. Director Sam Raimi admitted the actress has not yet confirmed she will reprise her role as Mary Jane Watson in the superhero franchise. **FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK**

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Taking the recession on tour

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
for Metro Canada

When U2 put out an announcement about their North American tour recently, there was one detail in the press release that stood out: $30 tickets.

It's a move, the band's manager Paul McGuinness said, that was designed to "ensure that U2 fans can purchase a great priced ticket with a guaranteed great view."

While that's a welcomed gesture from thousands of followers who are struggling to make ends meet during this recession, it could have also be a way to make sure the band's tour will be a sold out event.

It's likely U2 would have sold plenty of tickets anyway, and many seats are either $55 or $85, but they're not the only act that seems nervous about touring during this major economic downturn.

Riding the Recession

"We're seeing plenty of reaction to the economy in terms of pricing, from layaway plans at the festivals to packaging of artists, to multi-tiered pricing," says Billboard Magazine's Ray Waddell.

So far, however, touring hasn't suffered. Waddell says this year looks "very solid" so far, as huge acts like Billy Joel, Taylor Swift and Nickelback are hitting the road. But, he cautions, "There will be some impact at some point from unemployment and fear."

While mainstream musicians such as Britney Spears might still bring in the big bucks, it's mid-range groups and even indie bands that could suffer.

Tickets for U2's upcoming tour are selling for as little as $30.

Michael Hershfield, CEO of Toronto-based peer-to-peer ticket brokerage LiveStub, says more and more independent acts tour these days and that has saturated the market. "Because of that," he says, "when consumers' wallets are tight they're not going to go out as many nights as they used to."

"I haven't noticed anything yet," says Steven Himmelfarb, a booker who represents smaller acts like Tokyo Police Club. "All the cheaper ticket shows — $10 to $20 — I have not noticed any difference. There is a looming fear that might change instantly though."

If touring acts aren't feeling the recession yet, some venues are. In Halifax the legendary Marquee Club — the place where Sloan got their start — closed down in January. "It has been vastly unprofitable," owner Victor Syperek told CBC News late last year.

Waddell thinks more venues could shutter their doors too. He points to Toad's Place, a famous venue in Virginia, as a sign that some clubs just can't beat the recession.

"There is no substitute for 'brand equity,' but love and history can't keep the doors open," he explains.

Clubs might be at risk, but it's the summer festival that could suffer the most. There's a real chance big name concerts like Chicago's Lollapalooza or Warped Tour could see sponsorship pulled as companies cut back on marketing, and ticket prices aren't cheap.

"Festivals are the most nervous," says Himmelfarb. "They've been cutting back, but because they're trying to build a brand, it's hard for them to a take a year off and ... duck the recession."

"We're seeing plenty of reaction to the economy in terms of pricing." Ray Waddell, Billboard Magazine

CA	Vu	SC		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
3/18/09 primetime	267	351	- ACCESS	Alberta Primetime (Live)		Law & Order "Take-Out"		America's Next Top Model (N)		Lost "Namaste" (N)		Primetime
	243	317	3 CFCN	etalk	Hollywood	CSI: NY (HDTV) (N)		Criminal Minds (N)		American Idol (HDTV)		News (N)
	-	-	4 OMNI	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News		News		The Simpsons	King	Metropia
	-	371	5 KXLY	4 News at 6	4 News at 6:30	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	Scrubs	Better Off Ted	Lost "Namaste" (N)		Life on Mars
	245	306	6 CBRT	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Next Great Prime Minister		Being Erica (N) (DVS)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	244	338	7 CICT	ET Canada	Entertainment	(8:02) Life on Mars		Lie to Me (HDTV) (N)		Life "3 Women" (N)		News Hour
	246	-	8 CKAL	Law & Order: SVU		Murdoch Mysteries		The Chopping Block (N)		Nip/Tuck		Your City
	119	705	9 CBXFT	Virginie (SC)	L'Épicerie	Le Match des étoiles (N) (SC)		Les Invincibles (N) (SC)		Le Téléjournal et Les Nou		Le Galala
	-	-	10 SHAW	(6) Local Programming						Local Programming		
	-	372	12 KREM	News (N)	Bulldog Mad.	The Doctors (N)		Old Christine	Gary Unmarr	Criminal Minds (N)		CSI: NY
	-	374	14 KSPS	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Journey to Planet Earth		American Masters			Pioneers of Primetime	
	502	390	15 CBC	CBC News: The National		Tropic of Capricorn		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		Capricorn
	-	370	16 KHQ	News (N)	Be-Millionaire	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel-Fortune	The Chopping Block		Life "3 Women" (N)		Law & Order
	-	373	22 KAYU	The Simpsons	Raymond	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Lie to Me (HDTV) (N)		American Idol (HDTV)		News (N)
	297	652	37 WPIX	90210 (HDTV)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men	Friends	Sex and-City	According-Jim	Frasier
news	500	500	29 CNN	Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)				Larry King Live		Cooper 360
	508	502	31 CNN2	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Nancy Grace		Showbiz Tonight		Lou Dobbs Tonight		Nancy Grace
sports	400	400	21 TSN	NHL Hockey Dallas Stars at Calgary Flames. (HDTV) (Live)					SportsCentre		Score Golf	Billiards
	408	418	27 net	Baseball: Teams TBA		Sportsnet Connected		Baseball Teams to Be Announced.				
	410	403	30 SCORE	Cabby Unlimit	NBA Basketball Detroit Pistons at Houston Rockets. (Live)					Score Tonight		Hockey Talk
	411	457	44 OLN	Mantracker	Mantracker	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman Costa Rica.		Mantracker	Mantracker	Bounty Hunter
	417	406	48 SPEED	Pinks (HDTV)	Drag Race	Drag Race	Wrecked	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	Pinks Outtakes	Pinks Outtakes	Pinks (HDTV)
family	552	543	20 YTV	March Break	March Break	In Real Life		Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Karaoke Star Junior		Falcon Beach
	557	541	39 FAM	Han. Montana	Sonny Chance	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School
	555	545	67 TOON	Ben 10: Alien	Johnny Test	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	American Dad	Robot Chicken
cable variety	575	583	11 CMT	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Three Chords	Sessions	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba
	553	546	17 TREE	Little Bear	Bucket-Dinos	Comfy Couch	Big & Small	Max & Ruby	Babar	Backyardigans	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!
	-	-	18 CHTV	The Insider (N)	E! News	Janice Dickinson Story		Knight Rider (N)		Janice Dickinson Modeling		News (N)
	505	398	19 TWN	(5) EarthWatch One		EarthWatch One		EarthWatch Two				
	602	568	23 W	Style by Jury	Style by Jury	Will & Grace	Friends	Grocery	Grocery Bag	Supersize vs. Superskinny		Stuck (N)
	521	560	24 TLC	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate
	603	561	25 FOOD	Iron Chef America		Ultimate Recipe Showdown		Restaurant Makeover		Challenge		Iron Chef Am.
	615	520	26 A&E	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Exterminators	Exterminators	Exterminators	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter
	617	522	32 SHOW	Wife Swap		The Outer Limits		Cashing In	About a Girl	G-Spot	Cock'd Gunns	Big Love
	601	562	33 SLICE	End of Leash	End of Leash	Kimora: Fab	Kardashians	ET Canada	Til Debt-Part	Real Housewives OC		Trading Sp
	-	633	34 ENC2	*Drive She*	(7:25) *Dogfight* ★★★ (1991, Drama)			*My Girl* ★★★ (1991, Drama) Anna Chlumsky.			(10:45) *Pay It Forward* ★★	
	520	505	35 DISC	Deadliest Catch		Mayday		Daily Planet		MythBusters		Dirty Jobs
	620	523	36 BRAVO	Wingfield	Wingfield	Death at-Opera	Broadway	Law & Order "Couples"		Without a Trace		*Ski School*
	294	650	40 WPCH	(6) *Galaxy Quest*		Fresh Prince	Seinfeld	Family Guy	Family Guy	*Galaxy Quest* (1999, Science Fiction)		
	626	547	41 COM	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Jon Dore Show
	-	539	42 TCM	*Knute Rockne, All American*		*Kings Row* ★★★ (1942, Drama) Ann Sheridan. (DVS)				(10:15) *The Girl From Jones Beach* (1949)		
	628	584	43 SPIKE	UFC Fight Night				CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: NY "Officer Blue"		Disorderly
	522	516	45 HIST	Outlaw Bikers		NCIS "Good Wives Club"		Outlaw Bikers		Ice Road Truckers		NCIS
	627	528	46 SPACE	Primeval		Stormworld (N)	Grand Star	Stargate SG-1 "Prodigy"		Star Trek: Next Gener.		Trek: Voyager
	-	-	47 AMC	(6) *Bride of Chucky* ★		*Commando* ★★ (1985, Action) Arnold Schwarzenegger.				Breaking Bad "Grilled"		*Stand by Me*
	619	525	49 TROP	What Happen?	What Happen?	Vanity Insanity	Ad Persuasion	Ad Persuasion	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Raymond	Family Guy
	600	564	50 HGTV	Property Virgin	Unsellable	Hid Potential	Really Big Flip	Holmes on Homes		Property Virgin	Unsellable	Mansions
	501	391	52 CTV	CTV Newsnet		News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News
	504	508	70 BNN	Squeeze Play		Market Call		Headline	Market Call	Commodities	Business News	Squeeze Play
	526	507	92 VIVA	Medium		Mediums	Psychic Detect	Mediums	Encounters	Judging Amy		Medium
	269	350	93 APTN	APTN National News: Contact		Caughnaw		Canadian Geographic		Miywayawin	Guides	Wings-Canada
	-	-	94 MCP	(6:30) News	News	Eight Heroes	Mom's-Upset	Van. Nights	Iranian Pop	Sabor Latino		Sabor Musical
	571	581	100 MMM	Confessions of a Teen Idol		Confessions of a Teen Idol		Revival	Back In	Party of Five		Confessions
	570	580	101 MM	Degrassi: TNG	Degrassi: TNG	Video on Trial	Video on Trial	PunchMuch		Shot at Love-Tila Tequila		disBand
	581	566	102 MTV	The Real World		The Real World (N)		MTV Live	After	From G's to Gents		Real World

critics' corner

Anna and Kristina's Grocery Bag

An apple a day keeps the doctor away, but a clove of garlic a day keeps everyone away. Just kidding; garlic is good for you, and there are ways to avoid the lethal breath. In this new episode, Anna and Kristina test-drive a cookbook in which every recipe contains garlic. They also compare modern mincing tools to that old kitchen standby, a good chef's knife. 9 PM on W

Gary Unmarried

Gary (Jay Mohr) is understandably delighted that Allison (Paula Marshall) has broken up with Krandall, but he hadn't foreseen the downside of the situation: Now Allison is spending way too much time at Gary's house, forcing him into the weird position of finding her a new love interest just so he can have his privacy back. Ryan Malgarini and Kathryn Newton co-star in the new episode "Gary Hooks Up Allison." 9:30 PM on KREM

Hardwicke eyes Maximum Ride

MOVIES Having put her stamp on Twilight, director Catherine Hardwicke is in talks with Sony's Columbia Pictures to develop and direct a film adaptation of another young-adult fantasy series, Maximum Ride.

The five-volume series by James Patterson chronicles six teens, known as the Flock, who are genetically altered so that they are part human and part bird. Learning to fly, they escape the laboratory where they have been housed and are pursued by a pack of creatures called the Erasers that are part human and part wolf.

Don Payne (Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer) is writing a screenplay based on the books.

REUTERS

GlobalStyle

Kenya Hunt

Read Kenya exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle

For complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and tickets, visit: metronews.ca/movies

Outspoken fashionista silenced, but no regrets

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

One draped skirt too many got Vancouver designer Genevieve Graham sent home from Project Runway Canada last night.

Designers had to create a dress for top Canadian model Coco Rocha to wear to a red carpet event during New York fashion week.

The judges thought Graham's silky, gold and crème coloured dress was too demure and "safe" for a model of Rocha's stature to wear. While host Iman praised Graham as a strong designer, she also said the judges were tired of seeing the same draped-skirt designs from her, challenge after challenge, sending her home.

Graham, 31, believes the judges didn't necessarily understand her ideas and she feels proud to have stayed true to her own design vision on the show.

"The judges didn't get my style at all but I wasn't going to change what I do. I wasn't willing to compromise my work," she said.

Genevieve Graham

Graham sparred verbally with judges in several episodes, often dismissing their criticisms outright, and her defensive attitude ultimately didn't endear her to them in the long run, something she's fine with.

"Fashion has a lot of personal preference — that's why I chose to take what the judges said with a grain of salt. I think they definitely have their aesthetic favourites," Graham said.

With her barbed, camera-ready denouncements of other designers' dresses and cocky attitude to her own designs, Graham didn't shy away from speaking her mind on the show. She clashed with several of the other designers, particularly Toronto designer Jeff Mackinnon who she took to task for lying about hand-stitching he had drawn on. While Graham insists she's not the ice queen some people have made her out to be, she makes no apologies for sticking to her guns.

"I wish they had shown me smiling and laughing more because I do have a really soft side. But at the end of the day, I am really confident in my work. You have to be confident in this industry or you can't survive — it's really cutthroat," Graham said.

Watch

- Project Runway Canada airs Tuesday nights on Global.

She feels doing the show was a great experience and gave her another stepping stone to traverse in the industry that she loves.

"I learned a lot about my skills and what I could and couldn't do. I have no regrets in my life — everything you do you learn from," Graham said.

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KEEPING YOU UPDATED

Swift doesn't discuss sex

Taylor Swift has no problems talking about dating — and boys — but don't ask her about sex. "I think when you talk about virginity and sex publicly, people just automatically picture you naked," the 19-year-old singer tells Allure for its April issue. **PEOPLE.COM**

Celebrity Buzz

Winehouse pleads not guilty

PEOPLE Amy Winehouse cracked her knuckles, adjusted her beehive — and to the delight of the 20 reporters in a London courtroom — spoke clearly from behind a clear plastic shield on the stand Tuesday morning, people.com reports.

Uttering only a few lines during a 15-minute hearing in the City of Westminster Magistrates Court, Winehouse proudly proclaimed her name as Amy Jade Civil — her married name. And, leaning forward to speak through a gap in the plastic, she pleaded "not guilty" when a charge of common assault against Sherene Flash was put to her.

The assault is alleged to have happened in September 2008 in Berkeley Square, London, at a high society ball.

Winehouse, 25, was dressed in a summery floral print, low-cut dress, which revealed her many tattoos and her bra strap, and four-inch pink stilettos. Asked at one point, as she fidgeted with her hair, if she was okay, she turned a security guard and said, "Me? I'm alright."

Watching the proceedings from a few feet away was her father Mitch and a minder, who had driven her down to the court from her new home in Barnet, north London. District judge and chief magistrate Timothy Workman set a trial date of July 23 and Winehouse was remanded on bail.

Leaving the hearing, the singer strutted and posed for the gathered photographers before being whisked away.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Natasha's brain injury

ACCIDENT Actress Natasha Richardson, a member of Britain's Redgrave theatrical dynasty, was severely injured while skiing at a Canadian resort and was returned to New York yesterday with her husband, actor Liam Neeson, according to media reports.

The New York Post, New York Daily News and London's Evening Standard newspapers all said Richardson, 45, the daughter of the actress and activist Vanessa Redgrave, suffered a life-threatening brain injury. But the severity of her condition could not be confirmed as her British and U.S. representatives repeatedly declined comment.

Richardson was skiing at the Mont Tremblant resort, about 75 miles (120 km) north of Montreal, when she fell on Monday during a private skiing lesson. The resort said the actress appeared to be in good condition after the fall but later felt unwell. She was taken first to a local hospital and then to the Montreal hospital.

The Toronto Star said one of its reporters saw Richardson, wrapped in blankets and lying on a stretcher with Neeson nearby as she was placed in an ambulance outside Hopital du Sacre-Coeur where she had been taken. The Canadian Broadcasting Corp. said Richardson left Canada on Tuesday afternoon on a private plane, accompanied by medical staff.

REUTERS

Zellweger's fans make her late

PEOPLE Renee Zellweger says her fans make her late, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Bridget Jones star admits she regularly keeps friends and colleagues waiting, but blames her poor time keeping on spending time with the public.

She said: "I have missed flights, missed ferries, missed taxi cabs and made my friends wait because of it. I'm learning to be better at it but I'll still feel bad if I can't stop to talk to someone."

Despite her tardiness, the 39-year-old actress feels obliged to speak to people on the streets because she doesn't want to let anybody down. She explained: "I hate to disappoint them, and I'm not very good at saying no."

Though she always manages to find the time to speak with her fans, Zellweger recently admitted she is too busy to settle down with a boyfriend.

She explained: "I'm not single, I'm busy. That's my line. The thing is, I'm away all the time. I suppose if I sat still long enough to get to know somebody beyond a dinner date, maybe. But I don't feel like my life is empty or that I have to make something happen. I have projects to develop."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Goldstein suing jet company for damages

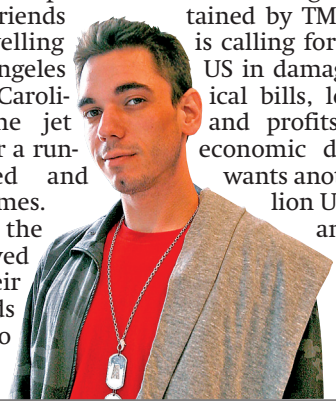
LEGAL DJ AM, Adam Goldstein, has taken a leaf out of mate Travis Barker's book in suing the company who owned the Learjet which almost became his fiery coffin last year, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The two friends were travelling back to Los Angeles from South Carolina when the jet failed to clear a runway, crashed and burst into flames.

Although the pair survived the crash, their four friends weren't so lucky, and now the music men are determined to put things right in their memory, and gain some compensation for the third degree burns they both suffered.

In new legal papers, obtained by TMZ, Goldstein is calling for $10 million US in damages for medical bills, lost earnings and profits and other economic damages. He wants another $10 million US for mental and physical pain and suffering.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

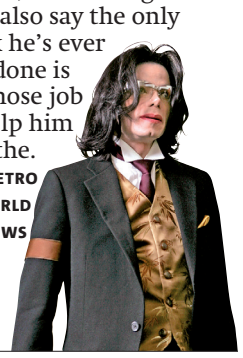


Surgery before Jackson show?

IMAGE Before Michael Jackson takes the stage this summer for his farewell shows at London's O2 Arena, he's allegedly making a stop at the doctor's office.

"Michael has consulted some of the world's best cosmetologists and surgeons in preparation for this comeback," writer Ian Halperin tells the Sun. Jackson's reps deny the claims, but then again they also say the only work he's ever had done is one nose job to help him breathe.

METRO WORLD NEWS



Kardashian defends Lohan

PEOPLE Kim Kardashian is coming to Lindsay Lohan's defense amid speculation that the troubled star is spiraling out of control — yet again, people.com reports.

Kardashian's concern follows a weekend for Lohan, 22, in which she was issued a short-lived arrest warrant and witnessed the arrival of police at girlfriend Samantha Ronson's home on Saturday after a loud disturbance at the home led to a broken window.

"It's so sad that there's such an invasion of privacy, with camera people, cops and paparazzi outside their home," Kardashian, 28, told People on Monday.

"I mean, when have you not thrown something when you're mad?" says Kardashian. "Everyone has to admit that at one time in their life, they've gotten so mad that they've thrown something, but maybe not necessarily breaking a window.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Competition still on, says Tyra

CAREER After an New York City casting call for America's Next Top Model turned ugly Saturday as hundreds of hopefuls were caught in a stampede resulting in three arrests and six injuries, the show's host and executive producer Tyra Banks tells aspiring models that they will still have a chance to compete, us-magazine.com reports.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Mayer Twitters about Jen

PEOPLE As he copes with another split from Jennifer Aniston, John Mayer has turned to Twitter to express his thoughts, us-magazine.com reports.

"This heart didn't come with instructions," he posted on Monday. Mayer's heart has been all over the place during his time with Aniston, 40: They broke up two times in 13 months.

In August 2008, they first called it quits. At the time Mayer blabbed about the split to paparazzi outside his NYC gym, stressing that he was the one who broke things off.

"I ended a relationship to be alone because I don't want to waste somebody's time if something's not right," he said.

They got back together and even attended the Oscars together last month, and recently split again.

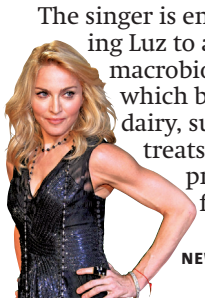
METRO NEWS SERVICES

Madonna wants beau to diet

RELATIONSHIP Madonna is known for her strict approach to health and fitness, keeping her body in tip-top condition and now it seems she is keen for her toyboy lover Jesus Luz to follow the same approach, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer is encouraging Luz to adopt a macrobiotics diet which bans all dairy, sugary treats and processed foods.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

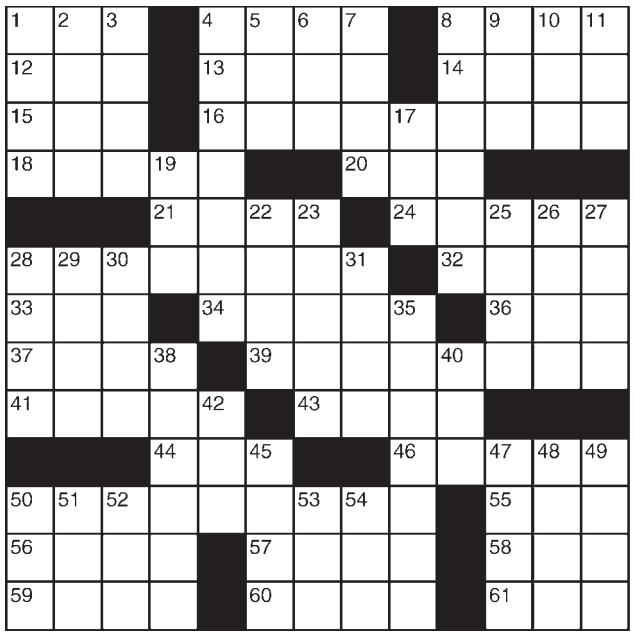


Today Sunny 4 C / -7 C
Thursday Some clouds 7 C / -5 C
Friday Some clouds 6 C / -2 C

BREAKFAST TELEVISION

Andrew Schultz, Weather Specialist – Breakfast Television
"I get to spread the word on how your day, evening or weekend will shape up with our ever-changing weather here in Alberta." **WEEKDAYS AT 6 A.M.**

Take Five



Crossword across

1 Help
4 Site of Apra Harbor
8 Roosevelt successor
12 Omega preceder
13 Incite
14 Shrek, for one
15 Golfer Ernie
16 Classic Cadillac
18 "Unleaded" brew
20 Family
21 Jamie of "M*A*S*H"
24 Turning point
28 Robin Hood's forest
32 Green land
33 Whammy
34 Some wrestling matches
36 Born
37 Bedouin
39 "Gran Torino" star
41 Minion of Satan
43 Approach
44 Existed
46 U-Haul competitor
50 Tinseltown
55 Water (Fr.)
56 Ontario neighbor
57 Florence's river
58 Pompous sort
59 Require
60 Verse
61 Allow

Crossword down

1 Mimicked
2 Last word in Gilligan's theme
3 Platter
4 Hearty laughs
5 It starts with "http:"
6 Time of your life?
7 Timid
8 Local, to a collegian
9 Past
10 To and —
11 Kennedy or Koppel
17 Gratuity
19 A cont.
22 Libertine
23 Typeface option
25 Provider of veritas
26 Sandwich treat
27 Prepared to drive
28 Roe source
29 Present
30 Physical
31 Tablespoonful or tablet
35 Fame, in 50-Across
38 Partook at kegling
40 Distort
42 Aye canceler
45 Trade
47 Option from Howie
48 Facility
49 Oxidation
50 Coop dweller
51 Raw rock
52 Falsehood
53 Plata's partner
54 Inseparable

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

5								8
	7	8				4	2	
			8	9	7			
		9	2	3	4	1		
4	8						3	5
		1	9	8	5	6		
			7	1	9			
	6	4				7	5	
8								3

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

U	R	A	L	■	E	G	G	S
M	A	G	I	■	T	E	A	K
A	D	A	M	A	N	T	L	Y
■	■	■	B	R	A	S	■	J
B	I	G	O	T	■	■	M	A
O	N	U	S	■	P	L	A	C
S	K	I	■	P	L	U	C	K
S	Y	N	D	R	O	M	E	■
■	■	■	E	Y	E	D	■	■
L	E	V	E	E	■	S	W	I
I	R	E	■	M	A	C	A	D
F	I	R	■	P	L	A	N	■
E	K	E	■	T	E	N	D	■

■	S	O	D	■	■	■	■	■
■	E	R	E	■	■	■	■	■
■	V	A	N	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
A	N	N	■	■	■	■	■	■
A	T	E	D	■	■	■	■	■
■	E	G	O	■	■	■	■	■
■	L	E	A	N	■	■	■	■
B	E	N	D	S	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
M	A	C	A	D	A	M	I	A
■	T	O	R	N	■	■	■	■
■	E	W	A	N	■	■	■	■

7	1	8	6	2	5	4	9	3
3	6	4	9	8	1	7	2	5
9	2	5	3	7	4	1	6	8
8	7	3	4	1	9	6	5	2
4	5	6	7	3	2	8	1	9
2	9	1	8	5	6	3	4	7
6	3	2	5	4	8	9	7	1
5	8	9	1	6	7	2	3	4
1	4	7	2	9	3	5	8	6

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Blue Cheese-stuffed Burgers

INGREDIENTS:
3/4 lb (375 g) extra-lean ground beef
1 cup (250 ml) quick-cooking oats (uncooked)
2 tbsp (25 ml) ketchup
2 tsp (10 ml) Dijon mustard
1/4 tsp (6 ml) black pepper
1/4 cup (50 ml) crumbled blue cheese
4 hamburger buns
Romaine lettuce leaves
1 firm-ripe tomato, sliced
1 small red onion, sliced

METHOD:
1. Preheat broiler. Mix beef, oats, ketchup, mustard, and black pepper in large bowl until well blended. Divide into 8 equal pieces and flatten into thin patties.
2. Place 1 tbsp (15 mL) of crumbled cheese in the centre of each of 4 patties.
3. Top with remaining patties and pinch edges to seal.
4 Broil 4 inches from the heat until well done — 4 to 6 minutes per side. Serve burgers on buns with lettuce, tomato and red onion. **SERVES 4**

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
A good-looking guy has to pay the piper. Your social choices are affected by work. A revelation is made during a reconciliation.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Somebody's desires are aroused by a chance remark. Don't reach for a secret too soon. Try not to wear out your welcome.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Don't let your dreams be threatened by the light of reality. You're aware of someone's uneasiness. Understand the spaces between friends.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
You'll clash with an idiot. Prepare to be the life of the party. A passionate person will calmly break someone's heart.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Someone celebrates getting a generous reward. You could fall into a world of love. There'll be no time left for jagged nerves.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Some hills are too steep to climb. Say something before you leave. A problematical person forces unwanted changes.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Commitments are made and surprises arise. A friend makes a stand about emotional obstacles. Your situation becomes an inspiration.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Be sure you know what you're doing. A friend finds the time to see the truth. A car is nearly involved in an accident.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
Someone finds something painful. Don't look down on a last chance meeting. A rough guy is bothering a bad-tempered person.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
A man comes to you with his problems. Don't intimidate those who seek peace. An ailing friend says something stupid.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
A cheater's anxiety attack makes you suspicious. A grouchy friend claims to have a great deal. A humble person is giddy with delight.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
An absent minded lover shows up too late to meet. Impossible things will occur. Keep quiet when a bully is near.

WEEKLY CD GIVEAWAY!

THIS WEEK YOU CAN WIN:
KELLY CLARKSON:
All I Ever Wanted
To enter go to www.metronews.ca and click on WIN
NOW AVAILABLE
metronews.ca metro Do it daily.
Contest closes on March 24th, 2009 at midnight

DENE INTERNATIONAL
BLOW OUT SALE
Everything must go! 50% to 70% off all ladies' fashions, boots and accessories.
201 - 4th St. NE
403.264.7769
Hours: closed Sundays
Mon - Sat: 11am - 7pm,

RentClick.ca
where owners and renters click
Can't sell your house or condo? Rent it out!
Visit RentClick.ca and list your property for FREE!* Use promo code : metro
*A $29.99 value. Offer ends April 30, 2009.

ESTĒE LAUDER

FINAL DAYS!

Your FREE 8-piece Gift

with any Estée Lauder purchase of $32 or more† **Worth over $70**

Receive 5X Hbc Rewards points*

on any **Estée Lauder** purchase of $50 or more (before taxes).

Give yourself a gift - Instantly redeem your 80,000 points for a $10 Bay Gift card to use towards your next cosmetic or fragrance purchase.

CHOOSE your repair serum

Choose the repair serum you want: a 7-day supply of **Perfectionist [CP+]** Wrinkle Lifting Serum or **Idealist** Pore Minimizing Skin Refinisher.

CHOOSE your lip and eye shades

PLUS get all 3 cosmetics bags!

Make your FREE Gift Even Bigger!

Add 3 full-size Estée Lauder Signature Hydra Lustre Lipsticks plus accessory case

with any Estée Lauder purchase of $75 or more†

Special Bonus!

Receive a $20 NYGÅRD COLLECTION coupon with your ESTĒE LAUDER Gift!**

**$20 off any NYGÅRD COLLECTION purchase of $75 or more (before taxes). One coupon per customer. While quantities last.

†Offer good while supplies last. Quantities are limited.
One of each gift to a customer please. Offer ends Sunday, March 22, 2009.

*Total points = 5 x (dollar amount x 50). You will receive 250 points per dollar spent. This offer cannot be combined with any other bonus offer. If you refund the purchase(s) made in connection with this offer, points will be reduced by the bonus amount, using the same formula. Terms and conditions of the Hbc Rewards program found online at www.hbc.com/rewards apply to this offer.

BEAUTY *at the Bay*